WEIRD VAMPIRE TALES

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FEAR NOT!

COME, COME INTO THE STRANGE BLOODY WORLD OF

FANGS AND CLAWS

WHERE THE LIVING-DEAD FEAST ON FLESH AND BLOOD

FEATURING

VAMPIRES ▪ THE FLESHRIPPERS ▪ WEREWOLF
SPACE INVADERS ▪ FANGS OF TERROR

Plus Other Horror Tales

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WEIRD VAMPIRE TALES

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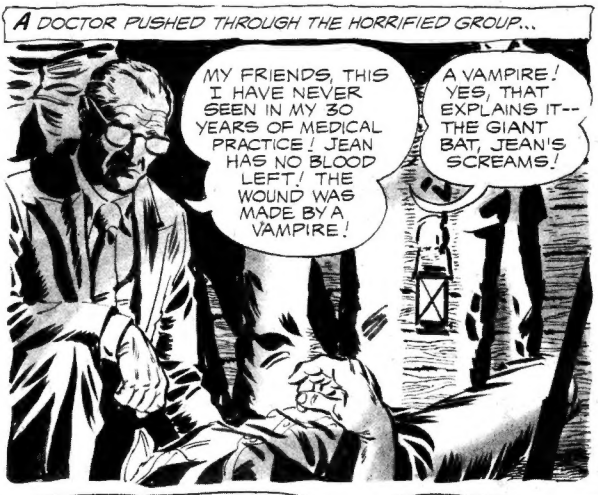
the STRANGE VAMPIRE

LUXEMBERG IS ONE OF THE SMALLEST STATES OF EUROPE, BUT OVER ITS FERTILE FIELDS ARMIES MARCHED AND BLOOD HAS FLOWED FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS. RELICS OF BATTLE ARE SCATTERED IN ITS RUBBLED SOIL. GREAT FAMILIES HAVE PERISHED AND DARK LEGENDS HAVE ARISEN WHICH HAUNT THE COUNTRYSIDE AND STRIKE TERROR INTO IGNORANT HEARTS.

BUT AS THE ELATED FARMERS LEFT THE FIELD...
WHO HAS TAKEN THE SUICIDE SWORD OF BARON DES GARENNES? WHO HAS UNCOVERED MY ANCIENT DISGRACE!
WHAT HAVE I RETURNED TO? MY CASTLE IN RUINS! MY LAND RAVISHED! THE SWORD OF MY DISGRACE WAS PLUCKED FROM MY HEART WHILE I LAY IN UNHALLOWED GROUND!
ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF WILTZ...
HERE LIVE THE GHOULS WHO ROBBED ME! I SHALL HAVE MY SWORD BACK AND THEIR BLOOD, TOO, THE PEASANT SLAVES!
SACRE! WHO--WHO ARE YOU! WH--WHAT DO YOU WANT?
YOU SWINE! I AM BARON CHARLES DES GERENNES! WHERE IS THE SWORD YOU TORE FROM MY BODY?
GAAAR! LET ME GO! MY FRIEND CLEMENCE TOOK IT TO LUXEMBERG TO THE MUSEUM OF THE WAR COLLEGE!
YOU HAVE AROUSED A FEVER IN ME! MY THROAT IS DRY! I NEED YOUR BLOOD TO SUSTAIN ME!
YOUR STRUGGLES ARE USELESS! BE QUIET!
AAAAAHHHHHH

JEAN'S DEATH CRIES ROUSED NEARBY FARMERS...
IT SOUNDED LIKE JEAN VALANCE!
THOSE SCREAMS CAME FROM THE BARN!

AGH, IT IS JEAN VALANCE!
LOOK UP THERE! A STRANGE BEAST LIKE A GIANT BAT. FLYING AWAY!


A DOCTOR PUSHED THROUGH THE HORRIFIED GROUP...
MY FRIENDS, THIS I HAVE NEVER SEEN IN MY 30 YEARS OF MEDICAL PRACTICE! JEAN HAS NO BLOOD LEFT! THE WOUND WAS MADE BY A VAMPIRE!
A VAMPIRE! YES, THAT EXPLAINS IT-- THE GIANT BAT, JEAN'S SCREAMS!

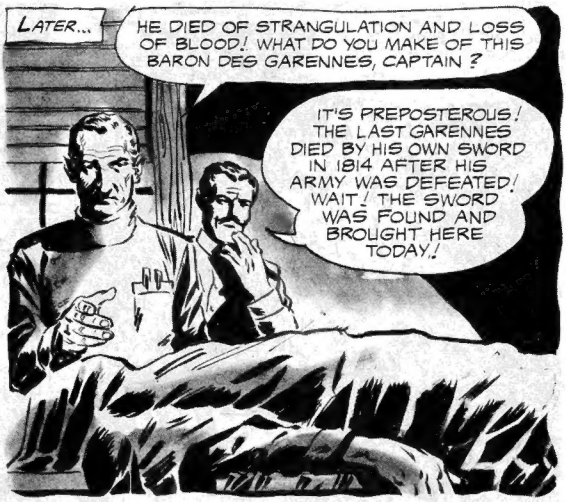
MEANWHILE, AT THE GATES OF THE WAR COLLEGE IN LUXEMBERG...
OPEN THE GATES! I DEMAND ENTRANCE TO THE MUSEUM OF WAR RELICS!
THE MUSEUM IS CLOSED! YOU CANNOT ENTER IT UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING AT NINE!

OUT OF MY WAY, YOU INSOLENT WORM! I AM BARON, GENERAL DES GARENNES!
I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE! I HAVE MY ORDERS! CLEAR OUT, YOU OLD LUNATIC!

AAH, YOUR THROAT IS LIKE A MAGNET! ONLY YOUR DEATH SHALL SATISFY MY CRAVING NOW!
LET ME GO! YOUR HAND IS LIKE COLD STEEL!
AAAHHH!

I HAVE DRUNK MY FILL! NOW I MUST FLY AWAY BEFORE THE GUARDS ARRIVE!

A HUGE MAN... STRANGE OLD UNIFORM... SAID HE WAS BARON DES GARENNES! HE CHOKED ME-- AND... AAARRR!
POOR DEVIL! SUMMON THE GUARD OFFICER AND A DOCTOR!


LATER...
HE DIED OF STRANGULATION AND LOSS OF BLOOD! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS BARON DES GARENNES, CAPTAIN?
IT'S PREPOSTEROUS! THE LAST GARENNES DIED BY HIS OWN SWORD IN 1814 AFTER HIS ARMY WAS DEFEATED! WAIT! THE SWORD WAS FOUND AND BROUGHT HERE TODAY!

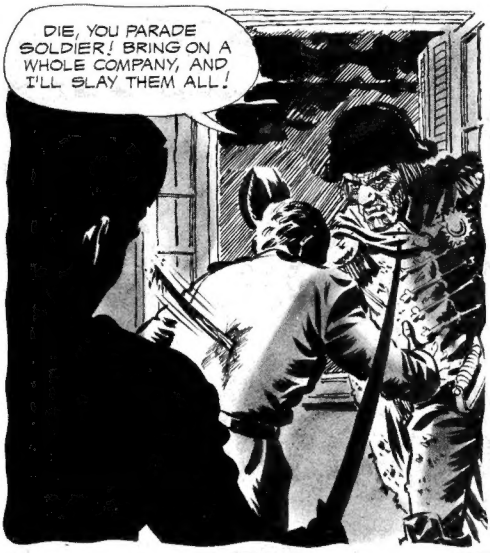
THE COMMANDING GENERAL WAS SUMMONED...
THIS BARON DES GARENNES WILL RETURN FOR HIS SWORD! DO NOT DISPLAY IT IN THE MUSEUM! WATCH FOR HIM!
YES, SIR!

THE NEXT DAY...
MY SWORD! NOW I SHALL GET BACK MY PRECIOUS SWORD!
IT'S THAT FIEND OF A BARON! I WILL ALERT THE GUARDS IN THE MUSEUM!

THE MUSEUM CRAWLS WITH SOLDIERS! AH THE SWORD DISPLAY! I THINK I SEE MINE THERE AND I WILL HAVE IT!

GET AWAY FROM THERE, YOU MADMAN! AFTER HIM, MEN!
MADMAN? WHEN I HAVE THIS SWORD IN MY HAND, I'LL CUT THOSE WORDS OUT OF YOUR THROAT!
CRASH!
TINKLE!

BACK, YOU DOGS! I WAS NAPOLEON'S RIGHT HAND! I'LL HAVE YOUR BLOOD!
CUT THE BARON DOWN! SHOW HIM NO MERCY!


DIE, YOU PARADE SOLDIER! BRING ON A WHOLE COMPANY, AND I'LL SLAY THEM ALL!

HE'S GONE!
NO! LOOK... A GIANT BAT FLYING AWAY WITH A SWORD! WE HAVE BEEN FIGHTING A VAMPIRE!

LATER...
CAPTAIN PARTOUT IS WOUNDED AND THREE MEN ARE DEAD, SIR!
WHAT? YOU MEAN HE WAS ABLE TO SUBDUE A WHOLE COMPANY OF GUARDS?

THIS CREATURE IS NOT OF FLESH AND BLOOD! HE IS A FIEND! A VAMPIRE!
DISMISS YOUR MEN! I'M CALLING A STAFF MEETING INSTANTLY!

GENERAL, THERE IS A MAN OUTSIDE FROM WILTZ, HE WISHES AN AUDIENCE! IT IS ABOUT THE BARON!
SEND HIM IN! MAYBE HE CAN SHED SOME LIGHT ON THE MATTER!

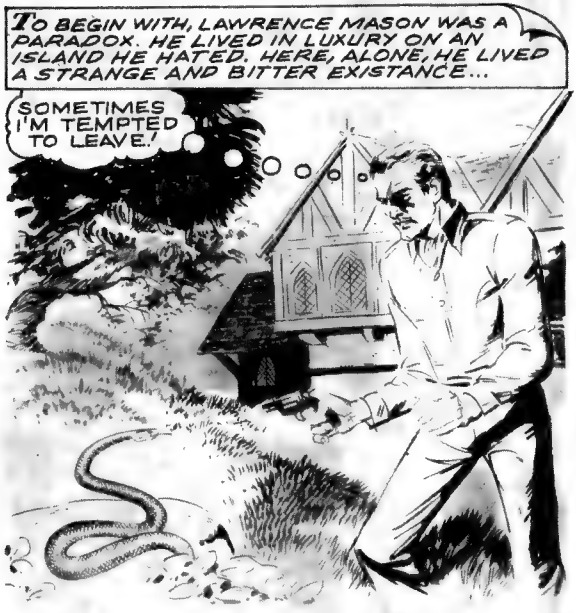
AND YOUR FRIEND WAS KILLED IN THE SAME MANNER! A LARGE BAT WAS SEEN TO FLY AWAY AFTER HIS DEATH!
OUI, MON GENERAL! I WISH WE HAD NEVER FOUND THIS ACCURSED SWORD! IT'S THAT SWORD HE'S AFTER!

AN HOUR LATER...
GENTLEMEN, RESEARCH TELLS ME THAT ONLY A SWORD THRUST THROUGH THE HEART WILL KILL THIS VAMPIRE! HIS SWORD!
THEN SOMEONE MUST BE FOUND TO DUEL WITH THIS SUPERHUMAN CREATURE! I HAVE IT! COL. MOSELLE, THE FENCING MASTER!

THIS IS YOUR ENEMY, COL. MOSELLE! HISTORY SHOWS HE WAS A GREAT SWORDSMAN AND STRONG AS A LION!
I CAN ONLY OFFER MY LIFE! I WILL KILL THIS BEAST OR DIE TRYING!
HERE IS HIS SWORD! MAY YOU BURY IT DEEP IN HIS HEART!
I AM READY, GENERAL! WE WILL DRIVE TO THE RUINS ON HIS CASTLE NEAR WILTZ!
MEANWHILE...
I HAVE BEEN TRICKED! THIS IS NOT MY SWORD! I MUST GO BACK TO THE MUSEUM! WHAT IS THAT I HEAR?
COL. MOSELLE HAD ARRIVED ON HIS MISSION OF VENGEANCE...
MAY I PRESENT YOU WITH YOUR SWORD, BARON! WHICH I HOPE TO RUN THROUGH YOUR BLACK HEART!
MY SWORD! YOU FOOL! IT IS USELESS TO DUEL WITH ME! I WAS THE GREATEST SWORDSMAN IN LUXEMBURG!
I'LL MAKE SHORT WORK OF YOU!
NOT SO FAST, BARON! I HAVE SOME TRICKS MYSELF!
SCLANG!
HAH, I HAVE DRAWN FIRST BLOOD!
ONLY A SCRATCH, BARON! FIRST BLOOD IS NOT ALWAYS LAST!
RIIIPP!
A BATTLE OF GIANTS! BUT THE BARON HAS THE UPPER HAND!
COL. MOSELLE IS WEAKENING! HOW LONG CAN THIS SAVAGE FIGHT LAST?
CLANG

YOU DOG, HOW DARE YOU DUEL WITH BARON DES GARENNES? SAY YOUR PRAYERS!
NOT WHILE THERE IS STRENGTH IN MY ARMS!
CLANG
SUDDENLY, WITH LIGHTNING SWIFTNESS, THE TIDE OF BATTLE TURNED...
BACK, YOU HELL FIEND! THE ADVANTAGE IS MINE!
HELAS! I AM DISARMED!
SWISH
CLANG
RETURN TO YOUR GRAVE AND MAY YOUR BONES ROT!
COL. MOSELLE, YOU WERE MAGNIFICENT! YOU DUELLED WITH THE DEVIL HIMSELF AND CONQUERED!
LOOK! HIS FACE IS SHRIVELING AWAY TO DUST!
NOW WE CAN RETURN THE SWORD TO THE MUSEUM!
NO, THE SWORD MUST REMAIN IN HIS BODY! IT WILL KEEP HIM IN HIS GRAVE! LISTEN! WHAT IS THAT RUMBLING NOISE?
AWAY! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! THE CASTLE WALLS ARE FALLING!
BARON DES GARENNES' MONUMENT! A NEW EPISODE OF HORROR HAS BEEN WRITTEN IN THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY! THIS DAY I WILL NEVER FORGET AS LONG AS I LIVE!
The End

SNAKEPIT


TO BEGIN WITH, LAWRENCE MASON WAS A PARADOX. HE LIVED IN LUXURY ON AN ISLAND HE HATED. HERE, ALONE, HE LIVED A STRANGE AND BITTER EXISTANCE...
SOMETIMES I'M TEMPTED TO LEAVE!

THOSE BLASTED SNAKES. BUT THEY WON'T GET THE BETTER OF ME... I'LL KILL THEM UNTIL THE LAST ONE IS DEAD!

MASON'S PRIVATE KINGDOM WAS CRAWLING WITH SNAKES... HE SPENT HIS TIME HUNTING AND KILLING, HOPING SOMEDAY TO FIND HE HAD WON OVER THEM...
INTO THE PIT WITH THE SKELETONS OF THE OTHERS!
BUT IN HIS LAVISH HOME, MASON FOUND IT A STRANGE, LONELY PLACE...
AH... THE RAIN'S A PLEASANT SOUND...
WHA! WHAT'S THIS? A WOMAN HERE ON MY ISLAND!
LET ME IN! PLEASE GIVE ME SHELTER!
HOW DID YOU GET HERE? COME... YOU MUST BE HALF DROWNED...
I'M LOST... I SAW YOUR LIGHT BURNING...!
WILLIAMS, BRING SOME FOOD... WE HAVE AN UNEXPECTED GUEST!
A WOMAN, SIR! Y-YES, SIR...
MY NAME IS ASPTHA... I COME FROM...
DON'T TELL ME! YOU'LL BREAK THE ENCHANTMENT! I HAVE NEVER KNOWN A CREATURE AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU ARE...

I'M WEARY... IT'S BEEN A STRAIN TO REACH HERE...
FORGIVE ME, WILLIAMS WILL PREPARE QUARTERS FOR YOU... WE'LL TALK IN THE MORNING...
GOOD NIGHT, SLEEP WELL...
I WILL... MY MIND IS AT PEACE... NOW!
SNAKE! INVADING MY HOME! IN THE VERY CHAIR SHE USED! IT COULD HAVE STUNG HER! MAYBE POISONED HER!
YOU GO TOO FAR, UGLY ENEMY! BUT YOU WILL JOIN THE LEGIONS OF OTHERS LIKE YOU THAT I HAVE SLAIN! I DESPISE YOU... DIE! DIE!
INTO THE PIT! THANK GOODNESS YOU DIDN'T FRIGHTEN THE ANGEL OF THE STORM WHO SLEEPS LIKE A CHILD INSIDE...
CURSING TRAILED OFF TO A LAUGHTER THAT BORDERED ON MADNESS...
SHE WILL NEVER LOOK UPON YOU... NEVER! NEVER!

MASON ROSE WITH THE EARLY SUN... HE HAD ADDED FERVOR IN HIS HATING AND HUNTING NOW...
NEVER SAW SO MANY OF THEM AT ONE TIME... MUST BE THE RAIN...
WHAT IS THIS YOU ARE DOING?
OH! GOOD MORNING! I'M SORRY THAT YOU HAD TO SEE... IT'S REALLY NOTHING...
DON'T MOVE! A GIANT RATTLER... I'M GOING TO SHOOT...
THANK HEAVENS I WAS HERE TO SAVE YOU! I GUESS I MUST CONFESS NOW. THIS ISLAND IS INFESTED WITH SNAKES! I KILL AS MANY AS I SEE...
YOU'LL SEE, I'LL WIN OUT OVER THEM SOMEDAY! HUNDREDS! ALL DEAD... SOMEDAY MY ISLAND WILL BE FREE...
I'M SORRY, I CAN IMAGINE HOW SHOCKING THIS MUST BE TO YOU... I GET CARRIED AWAY WITH LOATHING... FORGIVE ME!
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH!

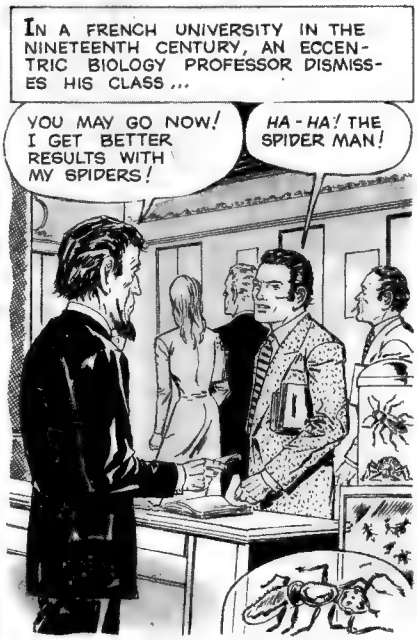
MASON'S GUEST WAS ALMOST SILENT DURING THE DAY...BY EVENING SHE ASKED TO SEE THE GROUNDS...
THE ISLAND IS BEAUTIFUL, BUT FOR THE SNAKES...
YES, IT IS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO LIVE!
BE CAREFUL! OHH...
AIEEEE-
SHE'S DISAPPEARED! WHAT IS THIS PLACE? IT'S NOT ONE OF MY SNAKE PITS! A CAVE!
MASON ENTERS THE CAVE...
GOT TO FIND HER! IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO HER, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF!
THE PITCH DARKNESS SERVED TO ENLIGHTEN MASON...HE MADE A REMARKABLE DISCOVERY...
I LOVE HER! I NEVER DREAMED THERE COULD BE SUCH A WOMAN! I MUST FIND HER...
HER VOICE! SHE'S SOBBING! HOW STRANGE HER CRIES SOUND! ONE WOULD ALMOST MISTAKE IT FOR LAUGHTER!
I'M COMING...! HERE I AM...WHERE ARE YOU?

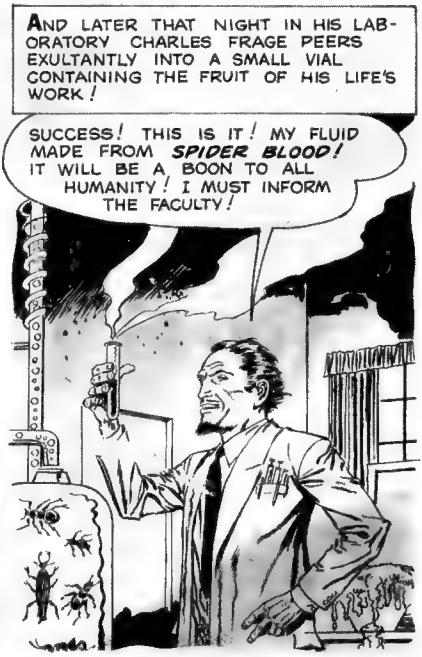
THE FLASH BEAM SUDDENLY IMPRISONED THE GIRL... MASON GASPED IN RELIEF...SHE WAS UNHURT AND ODDLY CALM...
I AM HERE... YOU FOUND ME!
COME! LET'S GET OUT OF THIS DREADFUL PLACE!
NO! I HAVE NO WISH TO LEAVE...
YOU'RE JUST HYSTERICAL! COME...
NO... THERE IS NO LEAVING THIS PLACE... NOW OR EVER!
BUT SUDDENLY A CRY ROSE IN MASONS THROAT AND FROZE ON HIS LIPS...HE STARED IN DISBELIEF...
STAY BEHIND ME... PERHAPS THEY WILL BE SATISFIED IN KILLING ONLY ME...
I TOLD YOU... THERE IS NO LEAVING HERE...
BUT I CAN TRY! I LOVE YOU! I'LL PROTECT YOU!
TOO LATE!

A THOUSAND STINGING BARBS STRUCK HIS BODY AT A SINGLE STROKE... POISON SHOT INTO HIS VEINS AND CREATED AN INSTANT ROARING FIRE OF PAIN...
I'M DYING, I KNOW... BUT YOU... WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOU?
YOUR DEATH TIME IS SLOWER THAN YOU HOPE FOR, MAN
...YOU WEAK FOOL! I MADE YOU LOVE WHAT YOU HATED! WE ROAMED THE EARTH AGES BEFORE YOUR KIND CAME TO KILL US... BUT IN THE END WE WILL TAKE OVER AGAIN...
YOU SEE WHAT YOU SEE! THE QUEEN OF THE KINGDOM YOU TRIED TO DESTROY! HOW WE LOATHE YOU! INDEED I'VE PROVEN AS MUCH BY TAKING ON ANOTHER FORM TO TO LURE YOU HERE...
IT'S OVER, MY PETS... BUT THERE WILL BE OTHERS... AND THEY, TOO, WILL DESTROY THEMSELVES...
THE HISSING VOICE... THAT SPOKE HUMAN WORDS CONTINUED AND MASON TRIED TO DIE... TO ESCAPE A HAUNTING FACT... ALL HIS LIFE HE HAD BEEN A COWARD... A MAN AFRAID OF SNAKES... AND LIFE...
SO ENDS THE EERIE TALE OF A MAN WHO LOVED AND LOST!
THE END

A TRUE GENIUS CAN BE A BOON TO HUMANITY! BUT THE BORDER BETWEEN GENIUS AND INSANITY IS PRECARIOUSLY SLIGHT! IF UNDETECTED IT CAN HAVE DISASTROUS RESULTS!

THE FLESHRIPPERS





THE NEXT DAY...
I TELL YOU, GENTLEMEN! I HAVE SUCCEEDED! MY SECRET FLUID WILL WORK ON MANKIND!
THAT'S THE MOST PRE-POSTEROUS THING I EVER HEARD!

IDIOTS! THEY DON'T REALIZE THE GENIUS OF CHARLES FRAGE!

LATER THAT NIGHT...
REBUKE ME, WILL THEY! THEY'LL SOON LEARN OF THE POWER OF MY SPIDER FLUID! THIS SICKLY ANIMAL SHALL RESPOND TO THE SERUM!

AND AS THE PROFESSOR SLEEPS, THE DOG RESPONDS TO THE SPIDER FLUID! BUT IN A MANNER TOO HORRIBLE TO CONTEMPLATE!
AGGGEOW

AGGGGG!

WARPED BY THE IMPERFECT SERUM, THE HIDEOUS SPIDER-LIKE CREATURE THAT ONCE WAS A DOG, RACES INTO THE NIGHT!

AND OUTSIDE A DORMITORY...
IT'S HORRIBLE AIEEEE!
AIEEEE! HELP-P!
BUT THE GIRL'S STARTLED SHRIEK SUMMONS HER CLASS MATES!
IT'S FANTASTIC!
HALF DOG, HALF SPIDER!
NEWS OF THE OMINOUS INCIDENT REACHES THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CHARLES FRAGE IS IMMEDIATELY SUMMONED!
BUT IF YOU HAD ALLOTED ME FUNDS BEFORE, THIS NEVER WOULD HAVE HAPPENED!
YOU'RE THROUGH HERE, FRAGE! LEAVE AT ONCE! YOU'RE MAD!
MAD AM I? I'LL LEAVE! BUT YOU'LL PAY DEARLY! YOU FOOLS!
THE ENRAGED FRAGE, SEETHING WITH HATRED, MOVES HIS EQUIPMENT TO AN ABANDONED SHACK CLOSE TO THE UNIVERSITY AND CONTINUES HIS WEIRD EXPERIMENTS!
THEY'LL PAY FOR THEIR FOLLY! THE POWER OF MY FLUID SHALL BE THEIR VERY DOOM! HA-HA!

BUT THE EXPERIMENTS ARE NOT CONFINED TO ANIMALS ALONE!
ANOTHER EXCELLENT SPECIMEN! HA-HA-HA!
WHA---!

DON'T STRUGGLE, MY FRIEND! YOU ARE TOO VALUABLE TO BE INJURED!
AGGGRRRAA!

HEH-HEH! THOSE FOOLS WILL PAY FOR THEIR SLANDER!

THE WARPED PROFESSOR'S GROTESQUE COLLECTION INCREASES RAPIDLY! AND A DIABOLICALLY CONTRIVED SCHEME TAKES PLACE IN HIS EVIL BRAIN!
HA-HA! YES YOU SHALL HAVE MY REVENGE!! THE HOUR DRAWS NEAR, MY PETS!

LATER...
ALL RIGHT! OUT YOU! YOU IN THIS CELL ARE FREE! SEEK OUT THOSE WHO HAVE WRONGED ME! HA! HA!

THAT'S RIGHT! HEAD FOR THE CAMPUS! HAA-HA-HA!

NO! AIIEEK!
HEEELP!
AIIEE!

AIIIEEE!

THE HORRIBLE BAND STRIKES WITH SAVAGE EFFICIENCY AS IT'S FIENDISH MASTER WATCHES GLEEFULLY!
HA-HA! SO THEY THINK I'M MAD! THEY CALL ME SPIDER MAN! IDIOTS! DIE! DIE! DIE!

NO! HELP! AIEEE!

BUT THE PROFESSOR'S HOUR OF LURID TRIUMPH IS SHORTLIVED!
FIRE! THEY'VE LIGHTED TORCHES! MY CREATURES ARE BEING CONSUMED! I MUST GET OUT OF HERE!

NO! MY LIFE'S WORK!

THE MANICAL PROFESSOR RETREATS TO HIS LABORATORY AND IS GREETED BY A SIGHT THAT MAKE HIS BLOOD RUN COLD!
THEY'RE COMING BACK! THEIR BODIES ARE ABLAZE! KEEP BACK! STAY AWAY FROM ME! DO YOU HEAR?
NO! NO! I AM YOUR MASTER! YOUR CREATOR!
AIIEE! NO!
NO! TRAPPED! THE FIRE! BELOW!
THE ENTIRE LABORATORY BECOMES A BLAZING INFERNO, THE ROARING FLAMES DEVOUR THE HIDEOUS MONSTERS ...
...AND THEIR INSIDIOUS, FORSAKEN CREATOR WHO DIES WRITHING HELPLESSLY IN THE WEB THAT GRASPS HIM!... THE SPIDER MAN INDEED!
THE WEB! I CAN'T... GET... OUT... (GASP) OF THE... AGGGRRRAA!!
THE END

DROWNED IN SAND

WAS IT THE SICKENING CLOYISH FUMES OF THE ANESTHESIA... OR WAS IT MAN'S BASIC DRIVE TO SEEK SOMETHING HE HAS LOST THAT DROVE RICKY SLATE THROUGH THOSE TORTUROUS GROTESQUE SCENES OF...

HURRY! I'LL SAVE YOU! I--I'VE GOT TO...

IT'S COMING! HELP ME!

A SILENT NIGHT... AND RICKY SLATE AND A FELLOW PRISONER TALK ABOUT AN OMINOUS SUBJECT...

RICKY, YOU STILL THINK YOU GOT YOUR SOUL? I MEAN--MAYBE YOU MIGHT HAVE LOST IT FOR MURDERING THOSE TWO PEOPLE?

WHO CARES?

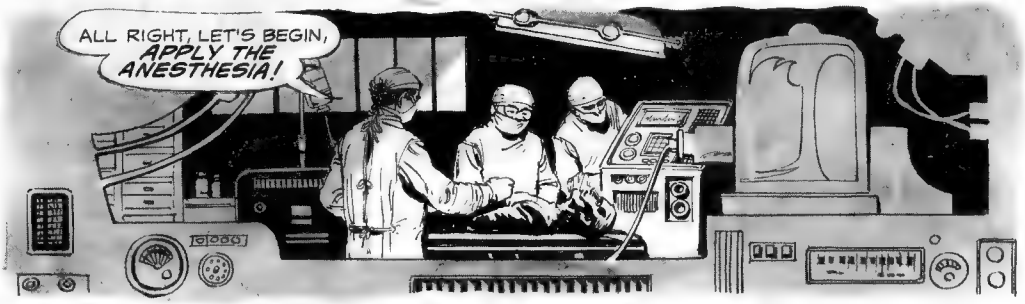
YOU GOT TO FIND YOUR SOUL... IF YOU WANT TO REST EASY... AFTER YOU DIE! I...

STOP TALKING SO MUCH! MY HEAD... FEELS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BURST!

YEOW! MY HEAD...GET A DOC...
DOCTOR! DOCTOR!

RICKY, SLATE'S BRAIN FELT AS IF BARBED HOOKS HAD GRIPPED IT...A HORRIBLE, CLAWING PAIN THAT NEEDED MEDICAL ATTENTION...
A SUDDEN BLOOD CLOT ON THE BRAIN, DOCTOR, HE...MAY DIE!
I'LL SEE ABOUT THAT, JUST GET HIM INTO SURGERY!

IT'S SERIOUS, SLATE! BUT, I'LL DO MY BEST!
O--OKAY, DOC...


ALL RIGHT, LET'S BEGIN, APPLY THE ANESTHESIA!

THE ANESTHETIC FUMES ENCLOSED ABOUT SLATE, BENUMBING HIS SENSES... AND ONLY STRANGE, CRACKLING VOICES SEPARATED REALITY FROM THE UNKNOWN REALM OF THE UNCONSCIOUS...
HE'S SINKING... GOING UNDER...
SINKING
GOING UNDER

THE HYPNOTIC TORPOR OF SLEEP FADED INTO MISTY NOTHINGNESS! THEN, SLATE FOUND HIMSELF IN ANOTHER WORLD, BOTH COMPREHENSIVE AND FANTASTIC!
WH--WHERE AM I? WHY AM I HERE?
AND... THAT MAN... COMING TOWARDS ME...
HELLO, SLATE, DON'T BE AFRAID!
DON'T COME NEAR ME! STAY AWAY!
THE WORDS WERE KINDLY, QUIET... A WELCOMING BALM THAT SOOTHED SLATE! AND, AS HE LOOKED UP...
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
DON'T YOU KNOW? I'M HERE TO KEEP YOU ALIVE... SO THAT YOU CAN FIND YOUR SOUL!
OH! THAT'S WHY I'M HERE... TO LOOK FOR MY SOUL?
YES! BUT BE CAREFUL! DANGER LURKS BEHIND EVERY CORNER, FOLLOW ME CLOSELY!
SLATE SOON FOUND HIMSELF AT A SLOW-MOVING, OOZY RIVULET THAT SEEMED TO COME FROM SHEER BLACKNESS!
BE DEATHLY STILL...
WHERE ARE WE? I--I'M SCARED! I FEEL LIKE SOMEONE'S WATCHING ME...

THE TUNNEL NARROWED DOWN TO A SINGLE, SLIMY HOLE... AND AS SLATE CRAWLED THROUGH IT, HE WAS UNAWARE OF WHAT FRANTIC HORROR AWAITED HIM...

WHO...? NO! NO! IT COULDN'T BE...
YES, IT'S US! THE MEN YOU MURDERED..
THAT'S WHY YOU LOST YOUR SOUL, RICKY!
SUDDENLY, SLATE FOUND HIMSELF IN THE GRIP OF COLD DEATH...
COME ON RICKY! YOU'RE GOING TO THE SOULLESS DEPTHS!
NO-OOO!
WHAT?!!
THE OLD MAN ENTERED INTO THE SPECTRAL FRACAS, SEEMING TO DRAW UPON THE STRENGTH OF HIS YEARS TO FREE SLATE
YOU'RE, LOOSE, RICKY, RUN!
BUT... WHERE?
GOT TO... RUN! THERE... GO THROGH THERE...
SWIFTLY, FEVERISHLY, SLATE CLIMBED HIGHER, MAKING HIS BID FOR SAFETY... AND HE HEARD THE COURSE VOICE OF THE OLD MAD...
WAIT! WAIT!
NO! I'M NOT WAITING...
I'M SCRAMMING! RIGHT NOW!

RICKY SLATE SQUIRMED THROUGH THE NARROW APERTURE TO ITS OTHER SIDE...ONLY TO FACE BUBBLING QUAGMIRES THAT EXUDED FETID ROT... AND AN OMINOUSLY FAMILIAR BLACK FIGURE...
SLATE, YOU HAVE REACHED THE REALM OF THE SOULLESS DEPTHS!
SA... NO! NO!
YOUR SOUL'S LOST TO YOU FOREVER! GO! GO!
DON'T...DON'T... AIEEEE!
AS SLATE WAS SUCKED UNDER BY THE REEKING CAULDRONS OF QUICKSAND, A KINDLY WRINKLED FACE RUSHED TOWARD HIM...
HELP! HELL!...
I TRIED TO TELL YOU... TRIED TO... OHHH...
IT'S ALL OVER... ALL OVER... ALL OVER...
SUDDENLY, MYSTICALLY, THE BLACKNESS OF DEATH FADED... AND IN ITS STEAD CAME THE PURE WHITE OF THE OPERATING ROOM... AND REALITY...
IT'S ALL OVER, DOCTOR!
I KNOW... I KNOW...
DURING THE OPERATION, I-- I FELT THAT SLATE WAS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING... AND I WAS HELPING HIM FIND IT! I WAS HELPING HIM FIND IT, I TRIED SO HARD... BUT HE GOT AWAY FROM ME, SOMEHOW...
I DON'T THINK IT WAS YOUR FAULT, DOCTOR!
THE END

THE HUNGRY VAMPIRE

ON THE BLACK FOREST REGION OF WESTPHALIA IS THE ANCIENT CASTLE OF THE POWERFUL HOHENSTAUFEN FAMILY WHICH RULED THEIR DUKEDOM WITH AN IRON HAND FOR SIX HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE THE MYSTERIOUS EXTINTION OF DUKE LUDWIG IN 1563! THEN, TO THE GLOOMY HOHENSTAUFEN CASTLE, IN MODERN TIMES, CAME ROBERT TELEMAN AND HIS WIFE JESSICA, CO-CURATORS OF THE CHICAGO MUSEUM OF HISTORY IN SEARCH OF A LOST WALL TAPESTRY...

"WHEN LUDWIG REACHED MANHOOD, HE WAS CONSUMED WITH HATRED AGAINST HIS FATHER...

"NOT LONG AFTER, LUDWIG'S HATRED LED HIM TO PATRICIDE!"
AT LAST! MY HATRED IS FULFILLED!!
"THEN LUDWIG'S MIND CAME INTO INSANE NOTIONS..."
MY OWN SON MUST BE ACCURSED WITH THE HOHENSTAUFEN MALADY WHICH BEFELL UPON ME! I CANNOT STAND TO SEE HIM LIVE UNDER THIS BLACK, BROODING PLAGUE!
"LUDWIG SNUFFED OUT THE LIFE OF HIS ONLY SON..."
NAY! DO NOT KILL ME!
YES! THIS ENDS IT... FOREVER!
AH, I SEE YOU EMBROIDER MY TAPESTRY, AUNT GERTA!
YES, LUDWIG AND A TRUE PICTURE OF YOU! SON-SLAYER, BLOOD-SOAKED TYRANT! YOU ARE VERMIN! AND SO SHALL I WEAVE YOUR HISTORY!
"WHEN THE TAPESTRY WAS COMPLETED, LUDWIG LAY ON HIS DEATH BED..."
FAITHFUL RETAINERS! THESE ARE MY LAST WISHES! BURY ME IN YON COFFIN IN THE SECRET PLACE! WRAP MY BODY IN THIS TAPESTRY SO IT NEVER SEES THE LIGHT OF DAY!
YES, SIRE!
A STRANGE STORY, ULRICH! BUT WHAT WAS HIS DISEASE? WHERE DOES HE LIE BURIED?
I DO NOT KNOW OF WHAT DISEASE HE DIED, BUT, HE'S BURIED SOMEWHERE IN OR NEAR THE CASTLE AND GOOD RIDDANCE!
THE NEXT DAY INSIDE THE CASTLE...
... IT'S UNUSUAL... EVERY OPENING IS DRAPED SO THAT NO SUNLIGHT CAN ENTER!
I NOTICED THAT, TOO!

THE SEARCHERS ENTER A DARK CHAMBER...
IT'S HORRIBLE! THOSE MEN MUST HAVE DIED IN THEIR CHAINS!
THIS PROVES THAT LUDWIG WAS A FIEND!
LOOK! TORTURE INSTRUMENTS! AN "IRON MAIDEN"... THUMB SCREWS... IRON BOOTS... WRACKS! LUDWIG'S PASSION FOR CRUELTY MAKES ULRICH'S STORY RING TRUE!
STEVE, BRAD, TAKE JESSICA OUTSIDE AND LOOK FOR A BURIAL VAULT! I'LL PROBE AROUND HERE!
DON'T BE TOO LONG, ROBERT!
I'LL TRY CUTTING INTO THIS FLAGSTONE FLOOR... YEOW! THE STONE IS SHARP! A CHIP CUT INTO MY WRIST... BETTER TEND TO IT! I'M LOSING A LOT OF BLOOD!
ROBERT'S FRESHLY DRAWN BLOOD SEEPED BETWEEN THE FLAGSTONES...
THE ANCIENT STONES WERE HURLED ASIDE, AND FROM HIS CENTURIES-OLD TOMB AROSE LUDWIG, THE TERRIBLE... LAST OF THE HOHENSTAUFENS!
WHO DARES ROUSE ME FROM MY GRAVE?
AM I RESTORED TO SEE MY CASTLE LOOTED? MY PRECIOUS TAPESTRIES GONE? AND THEN THE NOBLE NAME OF HOHENSTAUFEN FLUNG INTO THE DUST? I WILL CLAIM A LIFE FOR EACH TAPESTRY, AND THE LAST TAPESTRY, MY OWN, WILL NEVER BE FOUND!

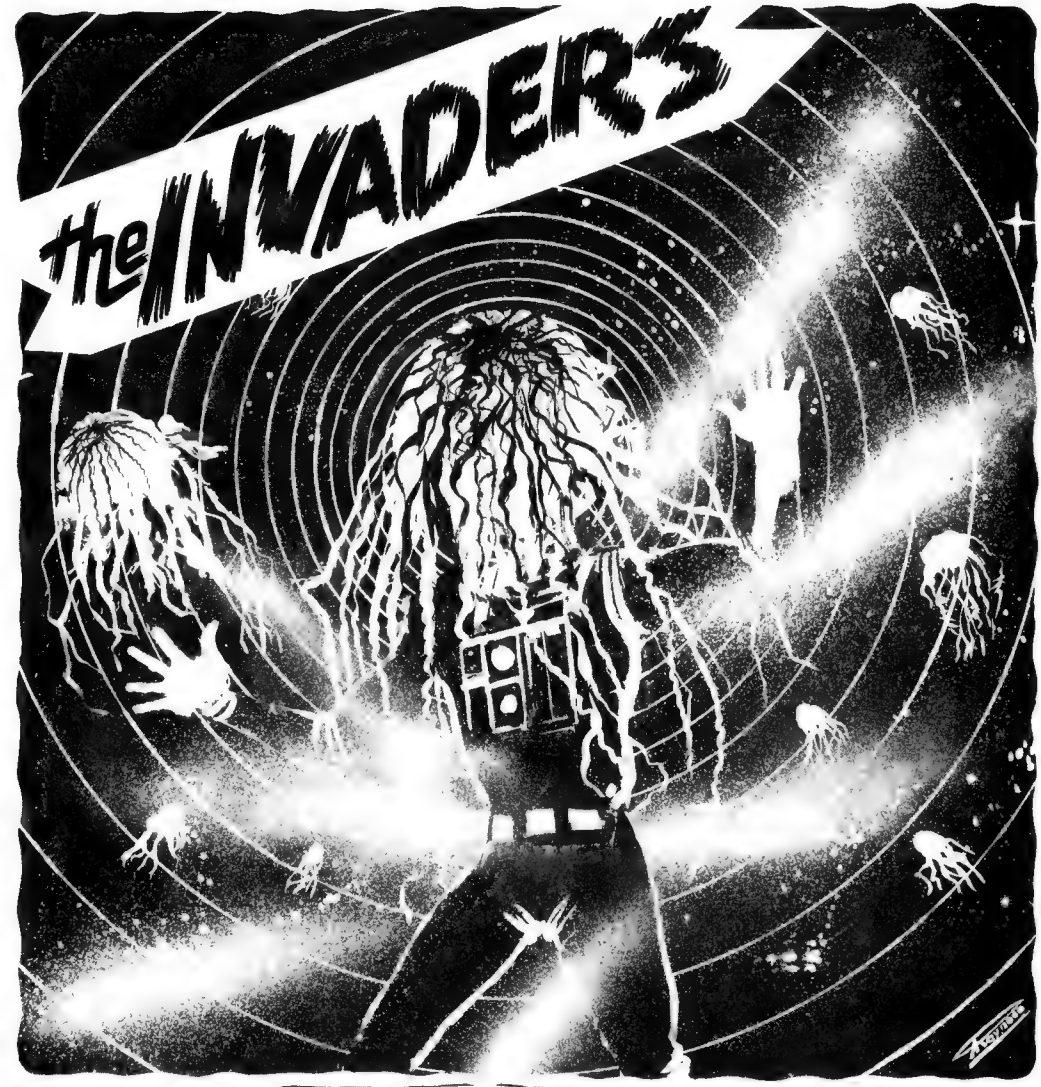
A FEW MINUTES LATER, WHEN ROBERT RETURNED...
THAT'S ODD! I NEVER FORCED UP THAT MANY STONES BEFORE I CUT MYSELF!
YOU MUST HAVE! NO ONE ELSE WAS HERE! PERHAPS YOU FORGOT!
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT! THIS IS TOO MUCH FOR MY ADDLED BRAIN TODAY! BESIDES, IT'S GETTING TOO DARK TO WORK!
LET'S CALL IT A DAY! BESIDES THERE'S ALWAYS TOMORROW!
That NIGHT, LUDWIG STARTED HIS VENDETTA ON THE OUTSKIRTS!
WILHELM! A VAMPIRE IS RUSHING TOWARD US!
ARRR... YOU PEASANTS WILL PAY WITH YOUR BLOOD!
MY THROAT BURNS IN ANTICIPATION! THE ANCIENT CURSE WILL SOON BE SATED WHEN I DRINK BLOOD!
The NEXT MORNING THE TOWN WAS AWAKENED BY...
HELP! HELP! WAKE UP! MURDER HAS BEEN COMMITED! MURDER!
MURDER? IMPOSSIBLE IN THIS TOWN!
SOON AFTER, IN NIGHTINGALE LANE...
WHAT CAUSED THESE AWFUL DEATHS, DOCTOR?
SOMEONE... OR "SOMETHING" STRANGLED THEM! I MUST INVESTIGATE FURTHER IN TOWN!
ANOTHER DAY OF FRUITLESS SEARCH IN THE CASTLE...
I'M SURE THAT TAPESTRY IS IN THE CASTLE, AND I WON'T LEAVE UNTIL I FIND IT!
IT'LL TURN UP!

LATER...
THE DOCTOR WANTS TO SEE YOU IN TOWN RIGHT AWAY, HERR TELEMAN! HE HAS FRIGHTFUL NEWS!
OKAY! I'LL HEAD RIGHT FOR TOWN! STEVE, YOU HELP ULRICH HOME!
BUT AS STEVE GUIDED ULRICH...
I DO NOT LIKE TO BE IN THESE HILLS WHEN IT IS DARK! IT IS TOO NEAR THE CASTLE!
TWO MORE VICTIMS TO REVENGE THE HOHENSTAUFEN NAME!
ACH! WHAT IS THIS? AIEEE! A FIEND HAS SET UPON US!
MY STOLEN TAPESTRIES WILL BE PAID FOR IN BLOOD!
AND NOW MY THIRST RISES! I MUST DRINK DEEP TO STILL THE CRAVING OF MY MALADY!
AN UNSEEN SHEEPHERDER WITNESS RACED INTO TOWN TO REPORT THE HORRIBLE INCIDENT...
I-I SAW ULRICH! HE... ACH! I CANNOT DESCRIBE IT...
ULRICH? I LEFT HIM WITH STEVE! WHAT DID YOU SEE?
AN ARMED GROUP FOLLOWED THE QUAKING SHEPHERD...
IT WAS RIGHT HERE! A BLACK DEMON TORE THE LANTERNS OUT OF THEIR HANDS! IT WAS SHOUTING ABOUT STOLEN TAPESTRIES... AND THEN...
IT IS AS I SUSPECTED! NOTHING BUT A VAMPIRE COULD KILL LIKE THIS AND BLEED HIS VICTIMS DRY!
VAMPIRE?
COME, WE WILL SEE FOR OURSELVES!

IN TOWN, A DELEGATION VISITS THE TELEMANS...
I MUST ORDER YOU TO GIVE UP THIS SEARCH! YOU HAVE ROUSED THE HOHENSTAUFEN VAMPIRE!
LOOK, I CAME 7,000 MILES JUST TO FIND THAT TAPESTRY! AND NO VAMPIRE IS GOING TO STOP ME!
LATER, OUTSIDE THE CASTLE...
ROBERT... PLEASE BE CAREFUL!
I WILL, BUT I THINK THIS VAMPIRE BUSINESS IS JUST NONSENSE!
THEN... IN THE CASTLE...
LOOK! A COMPLETE SUIT OF ARMOR! I'M GOING TO TRY IT ON FOR SIZE!
GREAT!
SINCE YOU'RE SO BUSY PLAYING "WHEN KNIGHTHOOD WAS IN FLOWER", I'M GOING EXPLORING!
JESSICA... KEEP WITHIN CALLING DISTANCE!
LATER...
MAYBE THE TAPESTRY IS IN THIS CHEST! I DON'T THINK ROBERT HAS BEEN IN THIS ROOM...
YOU HAVE DISCOVERED MY HIDING PLACE! I AM LUDWIG, THE LAST HOHENSTAUFEN!
H-HELP!
KEEP AWAY... OH-HH... I SLIPPED! I'M FALLING!
... THAT LIGHT! I CANNOT GO NEAR IT!

JESSICA'S SCREAMS ALERTED ROBERT...
JESSICA'S IN DANGER, BRAD! CHECK OUTSIDE! I'M GOING UPSTAIRS!
AS ROBERT CLANGED INTO LUDWIG'S SLEEPING CHAMBER...
MY OWN SON! IT IS HIS ARMOR! FORGIVE ME! I KILLED YOU TO SAVE YOU FROM THIS VAMPIRE AFFLICTION!
WHERE'S JESSICA? WHAT DID YOU DO TO HER?
THE LIGHT! DON'T OPEN THE DRAPE! YAHH-H! I AM UNDONE!
GOOD LORD! HE'S DECOMPOSING BEFORE MY EYES! THIS WAS LUDWIG, THE VAMPIRE!
AND FROM THE TOWER WINDOW, ROBERT SAW JESSICA WAS SAFE...
I LANDED IN THE MOAT... I'M OKAY, ROBERT!
THAT'S A RELIEF! ...IT'S ALL OVER! THE VAMPIRE... COME UP HERE!
LUDWIG DISAPPEARED WHEN I TORE OPEN THE DRAPE AND LET SUNLIGHT IN! I FOUND A PILE OF DUST IN THIS CHEST... HIS REMAINS!
LOOK! THE TAPESTRY! NO WONDER WE COULDN'T FIND IT! LUDWIG HAD IT BURIED WITH HIM!
BRRR! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
WEEKS LATER IN THE MEDIEVAL HALL OF THE CHICAGO MUSEUM...
THAT'S WHY LUDWIG HID THE TAPESTRY FROM THE WORLD! HE DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO KNOW HE WAS A VAMPIRE!
AT LEAST HE WILL NEVER WALK THE EARTH AGAIN!
HOHENSTAUFEN
THE END

the INVADERS



HELO, EARTH... THIS IS SPACE STATION 27-B, REPORTING... COME IN, EARTH... COME IN!
LOOK, TOD... ON THE RADAR-VIEWER! A SHIP'S COMING IN FOR A LANDING! MUST BE OUR RELIEF! IT'S GOT TO BE!
CM
THE MEN WATCHED THE SHIP LEVEL OUT FOR A LANDING, BUT THEIR HOPES TURN TO HORROR AS THE JETS SUDDENLY GAVE WAY AND THE CRAFT NOSED IN OUT OF CONTROL...
KEEP WORKING THAT RADIO, I'M GOING OUT TO THE SHIP! MAYBE SOMEONE'S STILL ALIVE!
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ONE OF OURS! HEY... THOSE THINGS DRIFTING OUT OF THE WRECK...
YUGGH! KEEP AWAY! I'LL BLAST YOU IF YOU COME ANY CLOSER!

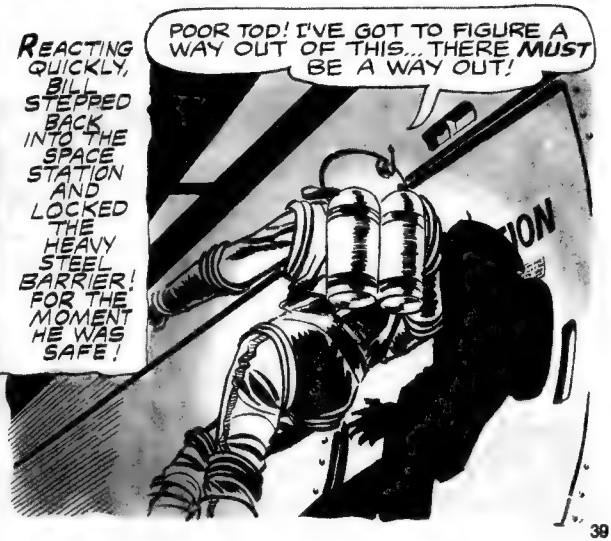
BUT THERE WERE TOO MANY OF THEM TO FIGHT OFF! IN DESPERATION, TOD TURNED AND RACED FOR THE SPACE STATION...

...IT WAS NO USE! IN A FEW MOMENTS THE STRUGGLE WAS OVER AND THE EARTHMAN WAS A PRISONER!
AARRGHH!

THE THINGS MADE HIM A PRISONER... SOME STRANGE FORCE WAS SHAPING HIS WILL TO DO THEIR BIDDING AND FORCED HIM TO LEAD THEM BACK TO THE SPACE STATION WHERE AN UNSUSPECTING BILL LAWRENCE WAS WAITING FOR THE RETURN OF HIS BUDDY!
WONDER WHAT'S KEEPING TOD? COULDN'T HAVE RUN INTO ANY TROUBLE! THIS ASTEROID IS UNINHABITED!

THEN, THERE WAS A KNOCK ON THE DOOR AND WHEN BILL OPENED IT...
WHAT IN THE WORLD... NO! IT CAN'T BE...

TOD! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?
MY MIND HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THESE SUPERIOR BRAINS! THEY CONTROL MY WILL POWER AND I'M FORCED TO DO THEIR BIDDING!


REACTING QUICKLY, BILL STEPPED BACK INTO THE SPACE STATION AND LOCKED THE HEAVY STEEL BARRIER! FOR THE MOMENT HE WAS SAFE!
POOR TOD! I'VE GOT TO FIGURE A WAY OUT OF THIS... THERE MUST BE A WAY OUT!

I HAVE READ YOUR MIND, AND THERE IS NO WAY OUT! YOU ARE DOOMED! THIS IS THE FIRST STEP IN OUR CONQUERING YOUR PLANET!

BUT HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO LEAVE HERE? YOUR SHIP IS WRECKED AND IT'S THE ONLY MEANS OF FLIGHT!

WE HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT, TOO! BUT I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT TO YOU UNTIL WE HAVE TAKEN OVER YOUR MIND! DO YOU SURRENDER?

NEVER! I'LL NEVER GIVE IN!

THAT NOISE! THEY'RE USING A HEAT-GUN!

BILL WATCHED IN TERROR AS THE BULKHEAD BEGAN TO GLOW WITH HEAT...

...THEN THEY WERE THROUGH AS THE PLATES BUCKLED UNDER THE INTENSE PRESSURE!

THERE WAS NO STOPPING THEM AS THEY SWARMED THROUGH THE GAPING HOLE...
NO! NO! STAY BACK!

HE STRUGGLED VALIANTLY, BUT THE ODDS WERE TOO GREAT!

IN A FEW MOMENTS THE STRUGGLE WAS OVER...
... AND BILL LAWRENCE FOUND HIMSELF IN THE GRIP OF A STRANGE POWER THAT WAS TO CONTROL HIS EVERY ACTION! HE COULD NOT RESIST! THERE WAS ONLY ONE THOUGHT IN HIS MIND... A HORRIBLE ONE... TO CONQUER EARTH!!

NOW WE CAN STOP THE JAMMING MACHINE! WE MUST CONTACT EARTH!
YES, I'LL TRY THEM AGAIN! HELLO, EARTH... HELLO, EARTH...

HELLO ... STATION 27-B3... THIS IS EARTH... YOUR RELIEF SHIP IS ON ITS WAY!
ROGER... WE'LL BE WAITING... OVER AND OUT!

THE TWO MEN LOOKED AT EACH OTHER AND NODDED! THE FIRST STEP OF THEIR MISSION WAS NOW COMPLETED! THEY WERE GOING HOME... TO LEAD THE CONQUEST OF EARTH!!!
IVT
ITN
THE END

WHEN THEY MEET THE
VAMPIRE
MOST OF US, WHO WALK IN BRIGHT SUNSHINE OF LIFE SUSPECT NOTHING OF THE HORRORS THAT LIE JUST BEYOND THE EDGE OF DARKNESS, WHERE FETID MISTS HANG LIKE SHROUDS FOR DAMNED SOULS, AND DEMONS MOAN IN THE ETERNAL NIGHT! BUT FOR THOSE WHO HAVE MADE THE TERRIBLE JOURNEY INTO THE UNKNOWN, THERE IS ONLY EVERLASTING TERROR!
DOCTOR JOHN AMES, PSYCHIATRIST, IS ABOUT TO INTERVIEW A NEW PATIENT...
MRS. HODGE BEGINS HER TREATMENT TODAY NURSE! SHOW HER IN AS SOON AS SHE ARRIVES!
SHE'S HERE NOW, DOCTOR!
DID YOU KNOW THAT SHE'S DORIS HODGE, THE FAMOUS MOVIE STAR! I'VE SEEN HER IN A LOT OF PICTURES!
YES, I KNOW! BUT SHOW HER IN, PLEASE!

SO...
HELLO, MRS. HODGE! COME IN, PLEASE! JUST MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE!
THANK YOU, DOCTER! I DO HOPE YOU CAN HELP ME!
IT TOOK A LOT OF COURAGE TO COME HERE, DOCTOR! I HAD GREAT DIFFICULTY IN TAKING THIS STEP!
SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME ABOUT IT!
WELL, AS YOU MAY KNOW, I AM IN PICTURES! AND LATELY- THEY SEEM TO LET ME PLAY NOTHING BUT HORROR ROLES! I'VE BEEN A VAMPIRE IN MY FIVE PICTURES AND...
SUDDENLY...
GREAT SCOTT- Y-YOU'RE CHANGING...
YES-NOW YOU SEE! I KEEP CHANGING INTO A (GASP) VAMPIRE!
I WANT BLOOD! I MUST HAVE IT OR I'LL GO MAD! ARRRGGG--
MRS. HODGE! YOU- SHE'S FAINTING, PASSING OUT!
GOOD GRIEF- SHE'S COMING AFTER ME!
I- I WANT UHHHHHHHH-

SHE'S OUT COLD! A VERY STRANGE CASE INDEED - I'D CALL IT HYPER-INDUCED VAMPIRISM! PROBABLY NOT A TRUE VAMPIRE, BUT THE MOVIE ROLLS SHE PLAYS BRING THEM TO THE SURFACE!
I - WHERE-- IT-IT HAPPENED AGAIN!
YES, MRS. HODGE, BUT DON'T WORRY! I THINK I CAN HELP YOU!
HELP ME? OH, HOW I HOPE SO! IT'S BEEN SO HORRIBLE-
BUT SUCH THINGS CAN BE CURED!
BUT THE CURE WILL BE LONG AND EXPENSIVE! I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU TO A PRIVATE SANITARIUM OF MINE!
LATE THAT NIGHT...
NOT MUCH FARTHER NOW, MRS. HODGE! JUST OVER THE CREST THERE!
OHH - IT'S SO DARK AND LONELY HERE! I'M A LITTLE FRIGHTENED!
NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF! SEE, THERE AHEAD! THAT'S MY PLACE!
IT LOOKS SO GLOOMY!
I-I DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO LIKE IT HERE! BETTER GO BACK...
NONSENSE, MRS. HODGE! YOU'RE IN A BAD WAY, YOU KNOW! YOU NEED TREATMENT AT ONCE!

THE DOOR SLOWLY CREAKS OPEN...
GOOD EVENING, DOCTOR! I SEE WE HAVE ANOTHER -PATIENT!
YES, IGOR! THIS IS MRS. HODGE! SHOW HER TO HER ROOM!
UGHHH- WHAT A MONSTER! WHAT SORT OF A PLACE IS THIS?
GOOD NIGHT, MRS. HODGE! SEE YOU IN THE MORNING!
THIS WAY, PLEASE! YOU'RE ON THE TOP FLOOR!
GOOD N-NIGHT DOCTOR!
LATER, AS THE DOCTOR SITS IN HIS STUDY...
SEE HER IN THE MORNING, EH? HAH-HAH! UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS I'LL SEE HER LONG BEFORE, MORNING!
GET HER ALL FIXED UP, IGOR?
YES DOCTOR, JUST AS YOU IN-STRUCTED! THE HOUSE IS EMPTY!
GOOD! GO TO BED AND STAY THERE! NO MATTER WHAT YOU HEAR, STAY IN YOUR ROOM!
YES, DOCTOR! GOOD NIGHT!
WELL, IT SHOULDN'T BE LONG NOW! WITH HER TENDENCIES, AND IN THIS ATMOSPHERE OF GLOOM, SHE SHOULD BE CHANGING INTO A VAMPIRE ANY MOMENT!

THE MOMENTS SLIDE PAST AND THE DOCTOR WAITS AND AND LISTENS! THEN...
AHH-AT LAST! I THINK I HEAR HER ON THE STAIRS!
COME IN MRS. HODGE! I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU FOR AN HOUR! NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE...
AGRRRR-AHHHHHHH- I'LL KILL YOU! I-WANT-YOUR-
NOT SO FAST, MY DEAR! I KNOW WHAT YOU WANT, EXACTLY, BUT YOU WON'T GET IT!
I'LL GET IT TOO! YOU WON'T ESCAPE ME THIS TIME!
THEN COME CLOSER-
HA-HAH-FOOL! YOU DON'T EVEN STRUGGLE! YOU KNOW IT'S USELESS!
ALL WRONG! YOU ARE NOT A REAL VAMPIRE!
WHILE I AM A REAL VAMPIRE! AND SO I'M THE STRONGER! HA-HAH-HAH! NOW WHO WINS? HEE-HEE-HEE...
-OH, NO...
OH, YES! NO-HO-HO! AND NOW, MY DEAR...
EEEEEEKKK-OHHHHHH-AHHHHHH-
THE END

THE NIGHT DESCENDS... AND ALL THE CREATURES OF EARTH CURL UP FOR SLEEP, BUT ALIVE AND LURKING, IS ONE THAT HOWLS WITH EVIL GLEE... A CREATURE SHUNNED BY MAN AND BEAST, THAT KILLS BY FANG AND CLAW... A HORROR THAT WAITS FOR A...

WEREWOLF

SO DEVASTATING HAD BEEN HIS FRIEND'S CRITICISM THAT ALEX NOME CONSIDERED THE CHEMICAL THEORY... LATER, IN HIS OWN ROOM...
OKAY... IF THEY WANT PROOF, I'LL SHOW THEM! I'LL DUPLICATE GAROU'S ENTIRE EXPERIMENT!
...BUT I'LL NEED "WOLF BANE" CRYSTALS AND GAROU'S NOTES SAY THAT HE WAS TO BE BURIED WITH THE CRYSTALS WHEN HE DIED! MY ONLY SOURCE THEN... IS GAROU'S GRAVE!

LUPE GAROU, THE MAN WHO HAD PERPETRATED THE HOAX OF THE CENTURY, LAY ENTOMBED IN A WEED-CHOKED CEMETERY ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN... TWO NIGHTS LATER...
I MUST'VE BEEN CRAZY TO COME HERE! IF THE POLICE CATCH ME, I'M SUNK!
MAYBE LARRY AND RUSSEL ARE RIGHT! ME AND MY INSANE THEORIES! WHO EVER HEARD OF SOMEONE WANTING TO BE BURIED WITH WOLF BANE? WELL SOON FIND OUT...

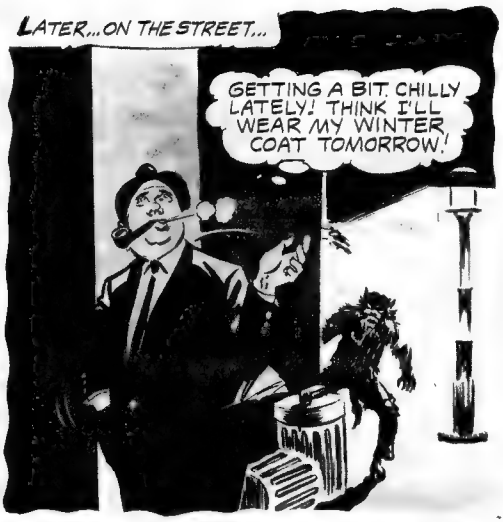
GREAT SCOTT!! H-HE WAS RIGHT!! LOOK AT HIS FACE!
IT'S TRUE THEN! LUPE GAROU DELIBERATELY COMMITTED SUICIDE BY INHALING THE CHOKING VAPORS OF WOLF BANE! THE TOWNSPEOPLE MUST HAVE BURIED HIM WITH THE REST OF THE CRYSTALS AS HE DIRECTED, ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO!! INCREDIBLE!

LATER...
THINK OF IT, DARLING... THE MINUTE I ANNOUNCE MY DISCOVERY, SCIENCE WILL STRIDE AHEAD!
OH, PLEASE ALEX! STOP TALKING IN MELODRAMATIC CLICHES!
COME NOW! ADMIT YOU'RE JOKING! WEREWOLVES, CHEMICAL REACTIONS! HA, HA! I'D RATHER YOU TOLD ME YOU LOVED ME!
YOU KNOW I DO, ALICE... BUT I'M DEADLY EARNEST ABOUT THIS AND I'LL PROVE IT!

MIDNIGHT... AND THE FULL OF THE MOON OVER THE LAND... LARGE... OMINOUS... THE PORTENT OF DEATH...
I'VE MELTED ALL THE CRYSTALS INTO THE FLUID AND NOW... ACCORDING TO GAROU'S FORMULA, I MUST DRINK IT AT MIDNIGHT AT FULL MOON!
THE MOONLIGHT PROBABLY HAS SOME SUBTLE EFFECT ON THE REACTION THAT I CAN'T EXPLAIN AS YET... BUT NOW... HERE GOES!!

ARRGH! MY THROAT... ON FIRE! FEEL STRANGE... DIZZY... SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO ME...

IT WORKED! I HAVE A DESIRE TO KILL-- KILL! HA, HA!


LATER...ON THE STREET...
GETTING A BIT CHILLY LATELY! THINK I'LL WEAR MY WINTER COAT TOMORROW!

AAGGH! LET GO!! W-WHAT DO YOU WANT? AGGHH--!
...KILL KILL KILL!

YAA-A-AHHH!

And THE BEAST OF HORROR STRUCK AGAIN... AGAIN... AND AGAIN AND...

AND WHEN DAWN CAME...
OHHH-H... WHERE AM I? W-WHAT HAVE I DONE? I--I KILLED! HEAVEN HELP ME!

But DAWN ALSO BROUGHT HORRIBLE NEWS AND FEAR TO ALEX NOME...
EXTRA! EXTRA! NIGHT-FIEND STRIKES! FIVE DIE HORRIBLY!
I-I'M GOING TO GIVE MYSELF UP! I'LL TELL RUSSEL AND LARRY EVERYTHING!
ALEX! I'VE TRIED TO REACH YOU ALL MORNING! THAT BUSINESS ABOUT THE WEREWOLF! FANTASTIC, BUT WE HAVE TO KNOW! YOU... YOU MUST HAVE BEEN JOKING...
OF COURSE I WAS! A MANIAC IS...IS LOOSE... AND IT KILLS LIKE A BEAST! THERE'S NO OTHER EXPLANATION!
ALEX DIDN'T KNOW WHAT MADE HIM LIE BECAUSE NOW HE WAS TWO PEOPLE... AN EVIL MONSTER ENCASED IN THE BODY OF A YOUNG MAN! LATER...
I CAN'T GO THROUGH THAT AGAIN!! WHAT A FOOL I WAS! IT'S MIDNIGHT ONCE MORE... I... I'M GOING TO CALL THE POLICE!!
BUT I FEEL SO STRANGE... LIKE BEFORE... I--I'M TURNING... TURNING--
GROW-WRR-R! HA-HA! THIS IS HOW IT SHOULD BE! I'M STRONG AND EAGER... AND THE MOON CALLS! HA-HA...
And TO THE ONE PERSON SO DEAR, THE BEAST STEALTHILY STALKED... TO DESTROY HIS LAST BARRIER TO NORMALCY...
I SHALL RIP OPEN HER DELICIOUS THROAT TONIGHT... HA, HA!
CLOSER I COME TO HER WARM BLOOD! SEE HOW FRIGHTENED SHE IS! NOW... NOW...
EEEEE!

ALICE!! AND... AND... GOOD LORD! ALEX!

ALEX LETS GO OF THE GIRL AND ATTACKS HIS FRIEND...
HELP! HELP! CAN'T FIGHT HIM...MUCH... LONGER...!!

SUDDENLY THE POLICE ARRIVE BUT THE MENACE TURNS AND RUNS...
HEY, YOU! STOP!!
N-NO!! DON'T SHOOT HIM! HE'S SICK!!

LATER...
IT'S ALMOST MORNING...THEY'LL FIND ME SOON! I CAN'T LET THEM TAKE ME! I-I WON'T BE ABLE TO DIE! I HAVEN'T GONE BACK TO MY HUMAN FORM! THE CHEMICAL REACTION MUST HAVE BEEN PERMANENT!

IF THEY TRY TO EXECUTE ME, I'LL LIVE TO KILL AGAIN! THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OUT OF THIS! GAROU MENTIONED HYPNOSIS OF ONE'S VICTIMS... FORGIVE ME, MY DARLING FOR WHAT I AM ABOUT TO DO...

MEANWHILE, BACK IN ALEX'S ROOM...
TRY TO CARRY OUT HIS EXPERIMENT TO THE LETTER, LARRY! WE MUST HAVE AN ANTI-DOTE QUICKLY!
BETTER STILL...I'M GOING TO DRINK THE SAME CONCOCTION ALEX MADE! HERE GOES!

ONE HOUR LATER...
IT'S AS WE FEARED! THIS SOLUTION HAS ABSOLUTELY NO EFFECT!
YES!! ALL THIS IS NOTHING BUT WASTED EFFORT! POOR ALEX!

ALEX IS ON MOON HILL! HE HAS ALICE UP THERE! THE POLICE SAW HER WALKING UP THERE ALONE! THAT'S HOW THEY FOUND HIM! THEY'RE GOING TO CLOSE IN!
LET'S GO! COME ON, LARRY, I KNOW A SHORT CUT!

SECONDS OF A LIFE SPEEDING BY... SECONDS STRETCHED INTO ETERNITY... AND THEN...
ALICE...!! NO!! NO!!

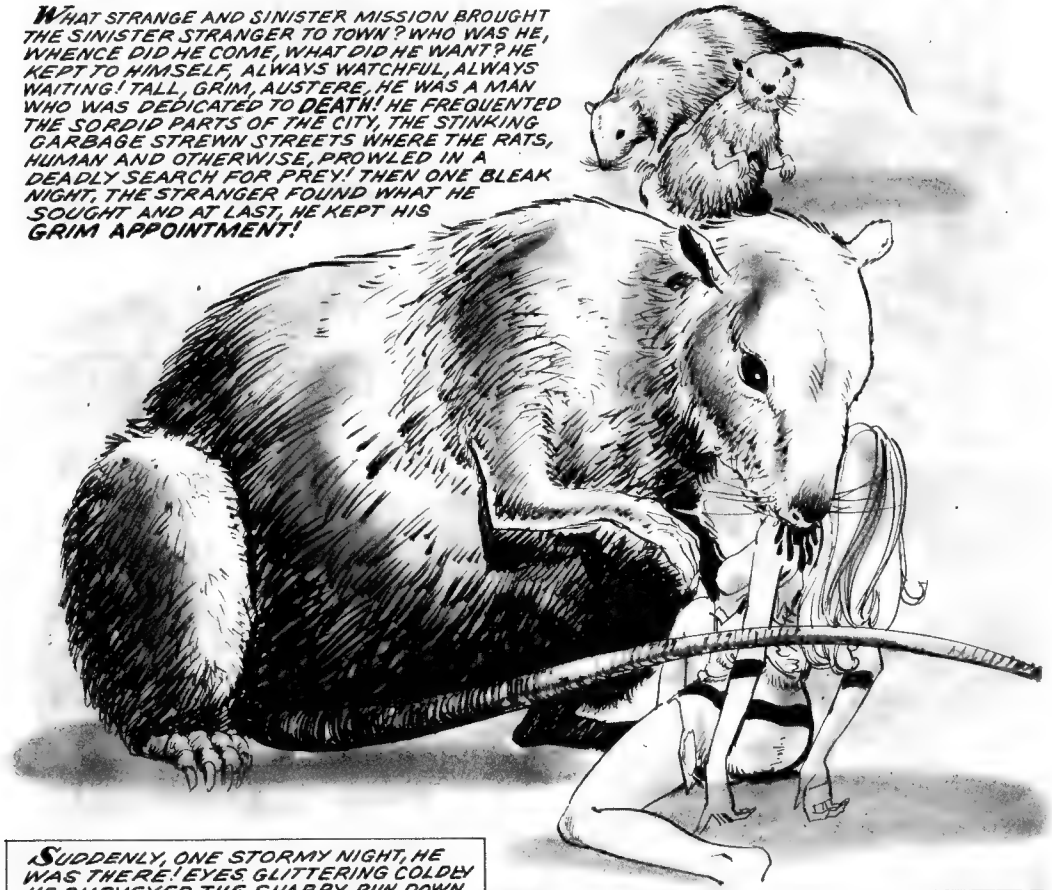
YIEEEE!!

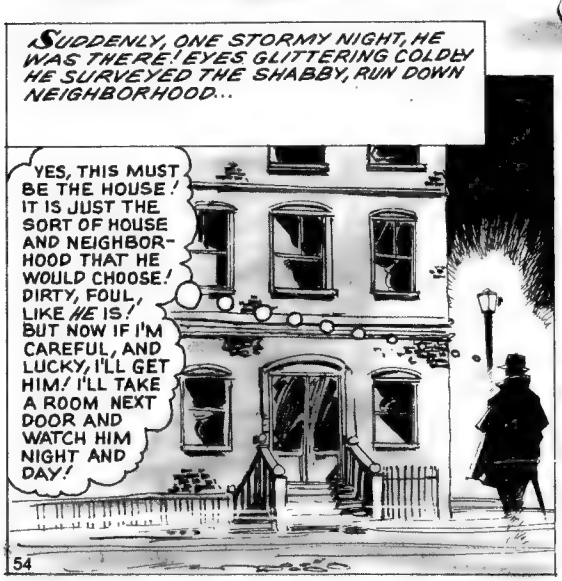
POLICE, MORBID PEOPLE... REPORTERS... A CRYING GIRL WAKING UP FROM HER TRANCE... BUT MORE STARTLING... THE FACE OF THE BEAST...
WHY... HE'S NORMAL... NORMAL IN EVERY WAY!
YES, RUSSEL... IN EVER WAY...

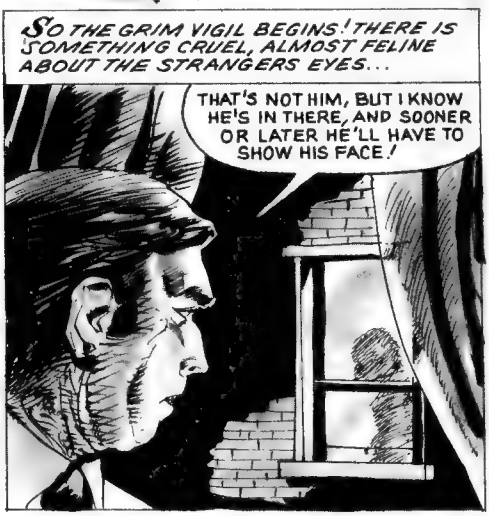
...EXCEPT IN HIS MIND! INSANITY MADE HIM THINK HE WAS A WEREWOLF! BUT REASON RECONQUERED FOR A WHILE MAKING HIM WANT TO KILL HIMSELF! WHAT BETTER WAY THAN TO HAVE HIS SWEETHEART DO IT? YES, INSANITY WAS THE HORRIBLE BEAST... NOT HIS EXPERIMENTS!
BUT HOW DID ALICE KNOW HE WAS HERE? HOW DID SHE KNOW WHERE TO FIND HIM? EXPLAIN THAT IF YOU CAN!! EXPLAIN IT!!
THE END

FANGS of TERROR

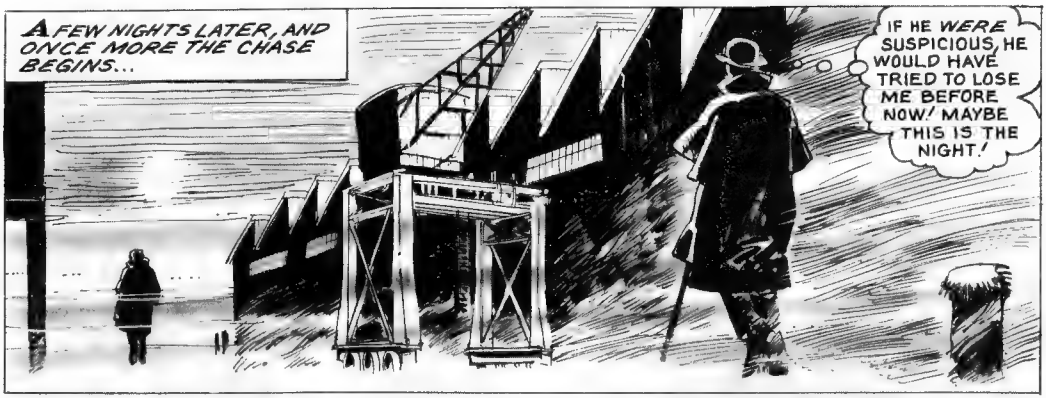
WHAT STRANGE AND SINISTER MISSION BROUGHT THE SINISTER STRANGER TO TOWN? WHO WAS HE, WHENCE DID HE COME, WHAT DID HE WANT? HE KEPT TO HIMSELF, ALWAYS WATCHFUL, ALWAYS WAITING! TALL, GRIM, AUSTERE, HE WAS A MAN WHO WAS DEDICATED TO **DEATH!** HE FREQUENTED THE SORDID PARTS OF THE CITY, THE STINKING GARBAGE STREWN STREETS WHERE THE RATS, HUMAN AND OTHERWISE, PROWLED IN A DEADLY SEARCH FOR PREY! THEN ONE BLEAK NIGHT, THE STRANGER FOUND WHAT HE SOUGHT AND AT LAST, HE KEPT HIS **GRIM APPOINTMENT!**







AND THEN ONE DAY, THE STRANGER SEES HIS QUARRY LEAVE THE HOUSE NEXT DOOR! HIMSELF UNSEEN, HE WATCHES FROM A DARKENED WINDOW AS A SMALL, RODENT-LIKE MAN SCURRIES FURTIVELY AWAY!
AT LAST! THE WAITING HAS BEEN WORTH WHILE... NOW I CAN BEGIN TO ENJOY MYSELF!
STEALTHILY, LIKE A GREAT CAT, THE STRANGER FOLLOWS THE LITTLE MAN...
HA, THE FOOL IS CONFIDENT! DOESN'T DREAM THAT HE'S BEING FOLLOWED! IT WILL MAKE IT EASIER IN THE END!
INTO AN EVEN POORER SECTION OF THE CITY THE STRANGER FOLLOWS! BOTH MEN ARE NOW SOAKED BY THE WIND LASHED RAIN!
SEEMS TO BE HEADED FOR THE WATERFRONT... HIS KIND ALWAYS SEEK OUT THE WATERFRONTS OF THE WORLD!
THE LITTLE MAN ROUNDS A CORNER AND STOPS, HIS NOSTRILS QUIVERING! HE ACTUALLY SEEMS TO SMELL THE DANGER! FOR A MOMENT HE SNIFFS THE AIR...
AND WHEN THE STRANGER TURNS THE SAME CORNER HE FINDS AN EMPTY STREET...
FOOLED ME! HE'S CLEVERER THAN I GAVE HIM CREDIT FOR! I WONDER IF HE COULD HAVE SMELLED ME!
LATER, THE STRANGER PACES HIS ROOM IN DEEP THOUGHT...
I'VE BEEN UNDERESTIMATING HIM, AND THAT'S ALWAYS A MISTAKE! I DON'T THINK HE KNEW I WAS FOLLOWING HIM!


A FEW NIGHTS LATER, AND ONCE MORE THE CHASE BEGINS...
IF HE WERE SUSPICIOUS, HE WOULD HAVE TRIED TO LOSE ME BEFORE NOW! MAYBE THIS IS THE NIGHT!

SO HE LEADS ME TO THIS OLD WAREHOUSE, BY THE WATER, AND NOW HE'S GOING DOWN THROUGH THAT TRAP-DOOR!

WE'RE DOWN UNDER THE DOCKS NOW, AND THERE HE IS! MOVES QUIETLY TOO! HA HA! ALMOST AS QUIETLY AS ME!

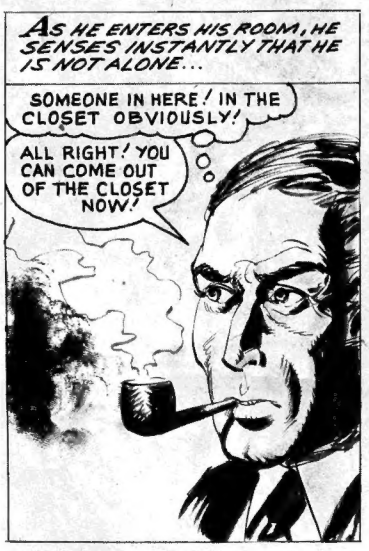
HE WENT IN THAT DOOR JUST AHEAD. I'LL SEE WHAT HE'S UP TO AT LAST! I'D LIKE TO KILL HIM NOW, BUT FIRST I'VE GOT TO KNOW WHAT HIS PLANS ARE!

RATS! HUNDREDS OF RATS! WELL, THAT FIGURES! BUT AT LEAST I KNOW! I WAS RIGHT ABOUT HIM!

ONCE MORE THE LITTLE MAN SEEMS TO SCENT DANGER! HE SNIFFS THE AIR CAUTIOUSLY, THEN COMES THE FRIGHTENED SCAMPER OF RODENT FEET...

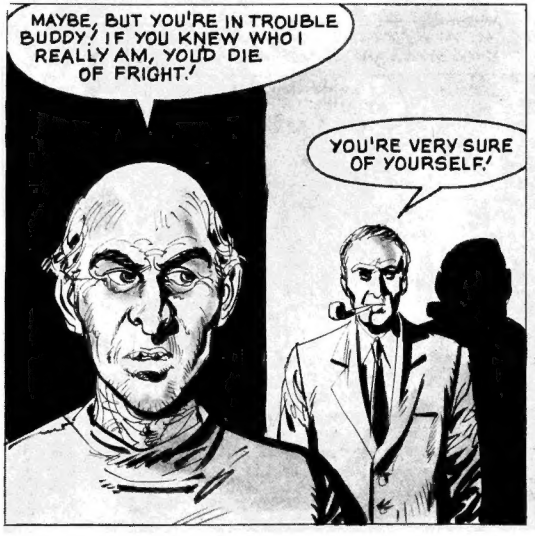
IN A FLASH THE ROOM IS EMPTY...
THAT TIME HE WAS DEFINITELY ALARMED,---AND HOW DID HE GET OUT?

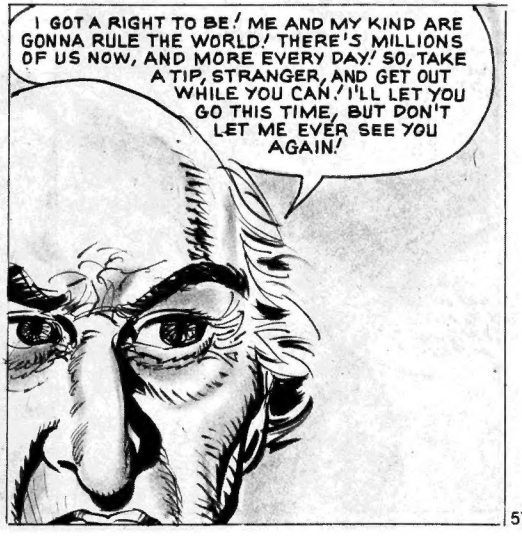
THE STRANGER GOES BACK TO HIS HIDEOUT...
YES, HE MAY HAVE BEGUN TO SUSPECT BY NOW! BUT THE BEAUTY OF IT IS THAT HE CAN'T BE SURE! AS THE HUNTER I'VE BEEN ABLE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND DISGUISE MYSELF IN A WAY HE CAN'T PENETRATE!


AS HE ENTERS HIS ROOM, HE SENSES INSTANTLY THAT HE IS NOT ALONE...
SOMEONE IN HERE! IN THE CLOSET OBVIOUSLY!
ALL RIGHT! YOU CAN COME OUT OF THE CLOSET NOW!

AT LAST THEY MEET FACE TO FACE...
YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING ME, BUT TONIGHT I FOLLOWED YOU AND SLIPPED UP HERE BEFORE YOU!
WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOU?

BECAUSE I SMELLED YOU, THAT'S WHY! MY SENSE OF SMELL IS VERY ACUTE! ONLY THERE'S SOMETHING PECULIAR ABOUT YOUR SMELL!
PECULIAR ABOUT MY SMELL... MAYBE I'VE PLANNED IT THAT WAY!


MAYBE, BUT YOU'RE IN TROUBLE BUDDY! IF YOU KNEW WHO I REALLY AM, YOU'D DIE OF FRIGHT!
YOU'RE VERY SURE OF YOURSELF!


I GOT A RIGHT TO BE! ME AND MY KIND ARE GONNA RULE THE WORLD! THERE'S MILLIONS OF US NOW, AND MORE EVERY DAY! SO, TAKE A TIP, STRANGER, AND GET OUT WHILE YOU CAN! I'LL LET YOU GO THIS TIME, BUT DON'T LET ME EVER SEE YOU AGAIN!

YOU'RE WRONG! YOU AND YOUR KIND WILL NEVER RULE THE WORLD WHILE I'M ALIVE!
HUH! YOU FOOL! SOMETHING AWFUL STRANGE ABOUT YOU! BUT YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE! NOW I'LL SHOW YOU WHO I AM!
I ALREADY KNOW!
YEAH? WELL NOW YOU CAN BE SURE! BECAUSE I'M THE KING OF THE RATS- AND I'M GONNA GNAW ON YOU!
AND I AM THE KING OF THE CATS! I DISGUISED MY SMELL! BUT YOU COULDN'T HIDE YOURS!
YORWWW!
THE FIGHT IS SWIFT AND DEADLY...
ARRGHHH
AFTER ALL THESE MONTHS I HAVE FOUND AND KILLED HIM! MY JOB IS DONE FOR NOW! BUT THERE ARE OTHER RAT KINGS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD! THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A NEW ONE! A SHARP FANGED CUNNING RAT KING! MY JOB IS TO KILL THE RAT KINGS!
AND THE MYSTERIOUS STRANGER VANISHES INTO THE NIGHT...
I MUST GO TO LONDON AT ONCE! THERE IS BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO!
THE END